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# THE FLY LEAF

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## THE FLYLEAF

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THE HORSE-LEECH HATH TWO DAUGHTERS  
Proverbs, XXX, 15

Our prize acquisition this quarter is a manuscript journal which now proves to be in the hand of Mirabeau B. Lamar, an account of a trip he made in Texas in 1835. Bill Hobby, as many of you will remember, has described this document at length in the Houston Post of March 1. The identification of Lamar's hand, cooperatively made by the Library staff and the History Department, gives this piece an intrinsic value much greater than the \$450 actually paid for it. Some Friend, interested in Texas history, might well wish to become the donor of this remarkable manuscript.

A minor manuscript, significant as literary material, is a file of 122 letters from Robert Eyres Landor, brother of the great Walter Savage Landor, and a man of letters in his own right. This is offered by a dealer in the Netherlands for about \$25.00.

Of architectural and historical interest: William Dugdale, History of St. Paul's, with the Hollar engravings of Old St. Paul's (burned in the Great Fire, and replaced by Wren's building) -- published 1658, \$17.64.

The translation of Osvald Siren, Gardens of China is here, and we should like sponsors both for this handsome book and its sequel, China and Gardens of Europe of the Eighteenth Century, published by the Ronald Press, 1949 and 1950, \$30.00 each.

Along with these art books we should mention the double fore-edge painting, ingenious and charming, which decorates a book entitled Memoir of Miss Duncan, Edinburgh, 1846 -- \$35.28; Rudolf Wittkower, The Drawings of the Caracci at Windsor Castle, Phaidon Press, \$9.56; Wood-Engravings of Thomas Bewick, published by Rupert Hart-Davis in London this spring, \$14.70, with excellent facsimiles of the work of the greatest of British wood-engravers; James Hakewill, A Picturesque Tour of Italy from Drawings Made in 1816-1817, published in 1820, \$8.82.

W. H. Robinson, Ltd., London has just issued Catalogue 83 for \$6.00, and worth it. It should be understood that this "catalogue" is a beautiful volume with plates and descriptions of rare books and manuscripts.

Two fine works in the history of technology, to which Associate Librarian George Bonn calls our attention, are Belidor, Architecture Hydraulique, with plates of great technical interest, 2 parts in 4 vols., Paris 1737 and after, \$25.00; C. J. Singer, The Earliest Chemical Industry, a scholarly and beautifully produced history of the alum trade, London, 1948, \$29.40.

Americana: Sir Charles Augustus Murray, Travels in North America during the Years 1834, 1835, and 1836, 2 vols. London, 1839, \$13.30 (a recommendation by Willard Thorp).

John Tracy Ellis, The Life of James Cardinal Gibbons, "a complete and definitive biography of one of America's greatest churchmen", Bruce Publishing Co., 2 vols., \$17.50.

Two landmarks in philosophy, first editions spotted by Professor Tsanoff at reasonable prices: Kant, Prolegomena zu einer jeden kunftigen Metaphysik, Riga, 1783, \$6.55; Rousseau, Discours sur l'Origine de l'Inegalite, Amsterdam, 1755, \$7.89.

Robert Browning, Sordello, 1840, \$8.96. An important poem more talked about than read -- gave Browning a terrific reputation for "difficulty". In view of what has been happening in poetry of late, the reports about the obscurity of Sordello seem to one conscientious reader to be greatly exaggerated.

Another first in English poetry, Byron, Prisoner of Chillon, 1816, \$7.00.

An important edition, not a first, is Croker's of Boswell's Life of Johnson, 5 vols., London, 1831, \$13.30.

The following books in the field of music are here and await donors: The Fireside Book of American Songs, 1952, \$5.00, an illustrated book that appeals to the eye

as well as the ear; Olin Downes, The Operatic Masterpieces, 1952, \$10.32, with synopses, piano arrangements of great passages, and decorative illustrations; William Leslie Sumner, The Organ. Its Evolution, Principles of Construction, and Use, 1952, \$10.00.

Helen Chillman, in charge of the music and Fine Arts Center offers the following timely suggestions, general and specific, for the development of our record collection. Prices indicated are list prices, from which we get a substantial discount.

Opera: Any complete opera is a fairly expensive purchase, and only a few are added annually from regular appropriations.

Beethoven, Fidelio, 3 LP records, about \$17.85.

Mozart, Magic Flute, 3 LP records, about \$17.00.

Menotti, The Consul, 2 LP records, about \$11.50.

Richard Strauss, Der Rosenkavalier, 4 LP records, about \$21.00.

Verdi, Rigoletto, 3 LP records, about \$17.85.

Wagner, Lohengrin, 5 LP records, about \$30.00.

Recordings have been made of all of Beethoven's piano sonatas, which we should like to have. These are single LP records, \$5.95 each.



Two fine sets of chamber music have recently been issued, the string quartets of Beethoven and the string quartets of Haydn. These may be purchased as single records or in complete sets.

We need a fund for "queer" music, to cover such things as examples of Chinese and Indian music, French, Italian, and Spanish folksongs, recordings of Elizabethan and Renaissance music. There are records of American colonial music, psalms from the Bay Psalm Book, and early American ballads that would be interesting and useful.

Remember: gifts to the record collection may be memorial records, just as gifts to the book collection may be made memorial books.

Alan D. McKillop

A philosophy student recently paid the statutory \$10 fine for a missed examination. Dr. Tsanoff, who does not like to make money off students in that fashion, contributed the amount to the Friends. Should this gift establish a precedent, the Book Fund will always be happy to receive any unexpected refunds or windfalls.

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HOUSTON

(President Houston has kindly set down for the FLYLEAF the substance of his remarks at the next to last meeting of the Friends, and thus gives us a terse and cogent statement which serves both as a progress report and as a welcome to our new Librarian)

The appointment of Professor Hardin Craig as Librarian of the Fondren Library may be regarded as ushering in a third phase in the library history of the Rice Institute.

From the earliest days of the Institute to her retirement in 1947, Miss Alice Dean, now Librarian Emerita, labored with untiring zeal to build a library worthy of the highest aspirations of the new university. And not only did she have zeal and devotion, she had also the hard headed judgment necessary to resist multifarious pressures in all directions and to keep her course directed towards her goal. As a result of her efforts, we can be proud of a collection which is distinguished for its quality, and which provides first class coverage in the fields of Rice's active specialization. With physical facilities totally inadequate by any standard, with a loyal but terribly small staff, she nevertheless set the library on the path which we are pleased to try to follow still.

With the retirement of Miss Dean and the appointment of Dr. Dix began a second phase, characterized by a magnificent



new building, a rapidly growing awareness on the part of the faculty and students of the library's value, and an increasingly widespread knowledge of the library throughout the country. In addition to being a first class collection, the library has become widely known and highly regarded. The generosity of Mrs. Fondren and her children, the skill of Dr. Heaps and his committee who worked on the design, and the skillful guidance of Dr. Dix have all contributed to a growing reputation. Dr. Dix's skillful handling of the problems of moving into the new building, of expanding the library staff, of developing new relations with other libraries and library associations, brought him so much personally favorable notice that he has moved on to conquer new worlds, and the Fondren Library moves into a third phase.

Dr. Craig's appointment continues to emphasize the policy that the library must serve first of all the Rice Institute's scholarship. With the assistance of all the Friends of the library, of all faculty and students, his will be the task of making sure that our promises are realized, and of continuing to make the Fondren Library an outstanding working library. We anticipate for him the same success that has crowned the efforts of his two predecessors, and the best wishes of all go with him.

W. V. Houston

## FROM THE LIBRARIAN

The Librarian has no Inaugural Address to deliver, and he would merely like to remark that the state of the Fondren appears to be sound. In moments of difficulty the thought of the Friends and their generous attitude is a very sustaining thing.

I hope that all the Friends share the belief that our manuscript holdings should constantly be increased. Manuscripts are not Lamar Journals only; they are account books, ledgers, old letters, travel diaries, and almost anything written by the hand or typewriter of man. When we have enough, we shall have material for many a master's and doctor's thesis and for more mature works of scholarship.

I propose to spend some of the Friends' money for such material, but it shouldn't all or even mostly be store-bought. Everyone may have things of potentially great value and interest to researchers, and the Fondren will be glad to provide sympathetic and air-conditioned surroundings for them.

Hardin Craig, Jr.

## RECENT GIFTS

The library continues to reap the benefits of Willard Thorp's year at Rice. As visiting M. D. Anderson Professor of English from Princeton, Dr. Thorp has identified himself with the interests and progress of the library and its Friends. A subscribing member to the Book Fund, he also continues from time to time to present the library with many fine volumes. More recently the Thorps have made two generous contributions, one to the William Shepherd Dix Collection of American Literature and one "in memory of English 395".

The Dix Collection has also received books presented by Tom R. Burkett and William S. Dix. Mr. W. N. Stokes has given seventeen volumes of recent fiction and non-fiction. Mrs. George Westfeldt continues her additions to the DeGaulle collection. Other useful books have been received from L.A.M. Barnett and Gerald MacLane.

Of great value to the Civil Engineers is a collection of plans, specifications, etc. on the construction of dams given by W. L. Whittemore. The library is also grateful to Dr. Gould H. Cloud for procuring volume 72 for our files of the American Chemical Society Journal.

The American Petroleum Institute has presented a copy of its annual and mid-year proceedings, and the Houston Chapter of the Association of Chartered Life Under-

writers has given a subscription to the Journal of the American Society of Chartered Life Underwriters as well as ten new volumes on life insurance, economics, and business administration.

James W. Phillips has given us two interesting volumes, McKay, American Book Auction Catalogues, 1713-1934, and Cooke, Virginia Comedians.

Through the interest of Ray Wood the music library has received collections of old songs from Mrs. R. M. Gibson, Mrs. Lula Ward Roth, and Mrs. Mamie Blair Votaw. From the campus, the Olga Keith Literary Society has made a gift for the purchase of records. With increased interest and activity in music at Rice contributions to the record and sheet music collections are extremely useful.

#### MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following memorials have been received since the last issue of FLYLEAF: in memory of Jake Armstrong by Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Floeter, Jr.; in memory of Kathleen Gemmer Barber by the College Women's Club; in memory of W. P. Bates by Nell Willman and John Blodgett Davis; in memory of Herbert L. Crate by Mr. and Mrs. Talbott Wilson; in memory of Dr. William M. Fonville by Mr. and Mrs. Perry Olcott; in memory of Charles Eikel by John Blodgett Davis; in memory of

Peter Jungman, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Jungman; in memory of George V. Kane by Mr. and Mrs. David Frame; in memory of Virgie Claxton Loewenstein by Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Knapp; in memory of Mrs. Edgar Odell Lovett by Stella Hope Shurtleff; in memory of Morris D. Meyer by Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Jungman; in memory of Norma Sterling Miller by Mr. and Mrs. Perry Olcott; in memory of Hugh Dudley Niday by Nell Willman and John Blodgett Davis; in memory of Wiley Joe Parker by Mrs. Wiley Joe Parker; in memory of Perry Poorman by Mr. and Mrs. W. Scott Red; in memory of Urban Joseph Peters Rushton by Mr. and Mrs. Willard Thorp; in memory of Mrs. George Thompson by Mrs. Preston Moore; in memory of Robert Lee Young by Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Jungman.

In memory of William Ward Watkin Mr. and Mrs. James Chillman, Jr. have presented the following volumes: Fontana, *Le Chiese di Roma*, 6 vols.; Palladio, *Le fabbriche e i disegni*, 5 vols.; Durand, *Recueil et parallèle des édifices de tout genre*, 2 vols.; Sanmicheli, *Les fabriques de*, (plates only). Other memorials to

William Ward Watkin have been given by James I. Campbell, Robroy Carroll, Theodore A. Flaxman, Mrs. Burke Holman, C. A. Johnson, Edward B. Mayo, Ann Ridgeway, Barbara Ann Roos, Wylie W. Vale, Adolph Stuermer, Ernest L. Vogt, Jr., Conrad G. Walton, Wilson, Morris & Crain, Oliver C. Winston.



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